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## Expeditionary Aerospace Force

By now most of you have read, or heard in passing, the words “Expeditionary Aerospace Force.” What is it? The concept involves a major reorganization of the entire deployable Air Force into 10 Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEFs) with the capability to rapidly deploy in response to contingencies around the world. For each 90-day period, two AEFs will have the people apportioned to them in the window (i.e., either on-call in the CONUS or forward deployed). Once the respective AEFs leave the window, they will not be vulnerable again for approximately 15 months. The overall inherit goal of this new concept is a reduction in OPSTEMP and incorporation of predictability and stability to how we schedule our folks for various deployments.

So, what have we done so far in the Comptroller community to prepare for this? Maj Yolanda Grove, the SAF/FM Functional Area Manager (FAM), held a financial management war planning conference, 6-8 Jan 99 at March ARB CA. FAMs from each MAJCOM, 11WG, and ANG attended the conference to determine how best to implement the concept. The goal for the conference was to apportion all Comptroller Unit Type Codes (UTCs) to each of the 10 AEFs. The specific ground rules and assumptions provided by Air Staff war planners to accomplish this were as follows:

- a. Apportion support UTCs in the following order: according to Lead wing; AFRC and ANG; Sister wing providing aircraft; and geographic to minimize airlift.
- b. Each AEF had to have approximately the same level of capability (people/equipment).
- c. All UTCs were to be apportioned with the exception of those considered high demand, low density, those supporting the two temporary on-call Aerospace Expeditionary Wings (AEWs), Strategic Airlift, Air Force Special Operations, and the Korean Peninsula.

The apportionment resulted in each of the 10 AEFs having on average 112 Comptroller personnel apportioned. Maj Grove then had the results coordinated by each MAJCOM FM, and presented the Comptroller apportionment input at the AEF Planning and Execution conference held at Hurlburt Field FL, 25 Jan - 5 Feb 99. Inputs from all functional areas were merged into 10 AEF “buckets” and provided to MAJCOM representatives for review. What’s next?

8-26 Feb 99	AF/XOPE—Assess feasibility of results from conference Determine steady state requirements - crosswalk into AEFs
1-5 Mar 99	Source/Scheduling AEFs to cover steady state requirement
8-19 Mar 99	Assess Sourcing Plans
May 99	AEF PAD and AFI Complete
Aug-Sep 99	AEF 1 and 2 Spin-up
1 Oct 99	AEF 1 and 2 Execution

While change of any kind always brings with it confusion and frustration in the initial stages, the positive aspect of this change is that it promises to give Air Force personnel some predictability to their lives and cut down on the number of days deployed. In the future, each individual will know which AEF they are apportioned, the schedule of that AEF in advance, the rotations will only last 90-days at a time, and that their respective AEF will not go in the window again for at least 15 months.